

Appl. No. 09/753,229
 Amdt. Dated 03/21/2005
 Reply to Office Action of January 21, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the office Action mailed January 21, 2005, the Examiner contends that Applicant claims two distinct inventions; namely, Group I (claims 1-19, 24-27, and 29-33), drawn to an authentication method, classified in class 713, subclass 168, and Group II (claims 20-23 and 28) drawn to a particular algorithmic function encoding or cryptographic information necessary for authentication, classified in class 380, subclass 28 or 249. Thus, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §121, the Examiner requires Applicants to restrict the applications to one of the alleged two inventions.

In compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 121, the Applicant elects Group I (claims 1-19, 24-27, and 29-33). Hence, Applicants have cancelled claims 20-23 and 28 without prejudice and have added claims 34-38. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to consider newly added claims 34-38 as well as pending claims 1-19, 24-27, and 29-33.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: March 21, 2005

By

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 Susan McFarlane March 21, 2005
 Date